



State Senator

November 2005

# VALDE GARCIA

Serving the 22<sup>nd</sup> District

Shiawassee-Livingston-Southern Ingham counties

## A Glimpse of Current Legislation & Critical Issues Focus: Military Affairs

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Senator Garcia  
wishes our veterans a  
**Happy Veterans Day!**



Find the latest information  
on veteran's benefits and  
assistance at the United  
States Department of  
Veterans Affairs web site,  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)  
or call  
1-800-827-1000.

### Bills introduced to protect property of veterans memorials

Two bills have been introduced to protect property that honors our veterans. The first bill is known as the "Veterans Memorial Property Act." This legislation is to ensure the property set aside to honor veterans is used primarily for memorial reasons and is used in a respectful manner. The bill also would prohibit the encroaching or desecration of such sites. The second bill is known as "Veterans Memorial Property Commission Act." This act would comprise a commission of representatives from:

- Department of Military and Veterans Affairs,
- The Department of History, Arts, and Libraries
- The Michigan Historical Museum, and
- The general public

This commission would make recommendations on land purchases involving military related sites for historic preservation. These preservations could be military bases or battle sites. Senator Garcia supports both bills.

### Senate passes legislation to benefit children of veterans

The Senate recently passed three bills that would provide children of veterans with tuition assistance to attend state colleges and universities. These grants will be available to the children of killed, missing in action or totally disabled veterans as a result of their service-related injuries.

House Bill 4001 would create a new act known as the Children of Veterans Tuition Act. This act would establish guidelines for an undergraduate tuition waiver program for children of deceased or disabled members of the United States Armed Forces. In addition, the bill would repeal PA 245 of 1935 because HB 4001 includes its provisions as well as updates. The program would be administered by the Michigan Higher Education Assistance Authority. HB 4002 would repeal four outdated sections of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Act. House Bill 4002 is tie-barred to HB 4001.

House Bill 5091 amends the Income Tax Act to create an income tax check off which will allow taxpayers to contribute \$2 or more to the Michigan Higher Education Assistance Authority for the Children of Veterans Tuition Program.

If the House concurs, the bills will be sent to the Governor for her signature.